

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4484

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6087

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR NATO NAC XF

SUBJECT: REINFORCED NAC CONSULTATIONS

REFS: A. USNATO 5933

B. USNATO 5535

C. STATE 203510

1. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL WE HAD ENVISAGED PROPOSING TO THE ALLIES A REINFORCED NAC CONSULTATION ON THE MIDDLE EAST DURING THE LATTER PART OF NOVEMBER, AND WE FORESAW THE POSSIBILITY THIS CONSULTATION COULDBE KEYED TO COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF THE AUTUMN REPORT BY THE NATO EXPERT WORKING GROUP ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE MAGHREB AND THE AUTUMN REPORT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN DRAFTING GROUP. THIS PROPOSAL IS DISCUSSED IN PARA 8, REF B.

2. LACKING INSTURCTIONS, OUR PORPOSAL FOR LINKING THESE TWO REPORTS FOR SPECIAL COUNCIL CONSIDERATION IN REINFORCED SESSION HAS NOT BEEN DISCUSSED WITH NATO/IS. ACCORDINGLY, IN THE REGULAR COURSE OF BUSINESS, NATO/IS HAS SCHEDULED THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE MAGHREB EXPERTS REPORT, C-M(75)56, AS ONE OF THE SIX AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 12.

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3. WE HAVE RECENTLY TAKEN INFORMAL SOUNDINGS AMONG SEVERAL KEY ALLIES ON THE SUBJECT OF CONTINUING THE ALLIANCES PROGRAM FOR REINFORCED NAC CONSULTATIONS. AS REPORTED REF A, THE OCTOBER 29 CONSULSTATION ON THE FAR EAST WAS EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL

AND WELL RECEIVED. HOWEVER, WHEN WE MENTIONED FOLLOWING THIS SUCCESS WITH A CONSULTATION ON THE MIDDLE EAST, WE WERE GREETED WITH LIMITED ENTHUSIASM. SOME ALLIES SAID THAT THE NAC DISCUSSED THE MIDDLE EAST RECENTLY DURING ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTONS SEPTEMBER VISIT; AND, AS THERE IS PROBABLY TIME FOR BUT ONE MORE REINFORCED NAC PRIOR TO THE DECEMBER MINISTERIALS, THEY WOULD PREFER TO TACKLE SOVIET POLICY AND EAST WEST RELATIONS. TWO ALLIES (FRG AND UK) HAVE ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN BRIEFING THE COUNCIL IN CONNECTION WITH WHAT THEY BELIEVE IS A FORTHCOMING TRIP BY THE SECRETARY TO MOSCOW.

4. COMMENT: PER REF C, WE HAVE EMPHASIZED THE NECESSITY TO REMAIN FLEXIBLE ON THE TIMING OF THE NEXT REINFORCED CONSULTATION ON SOVIET DEVELOPMENTS AND EAST WEST RELATIONS, AND WE BELIEVE THE ALLIES ARE SYMPATHETIC TO THE DELICACY OF VARIOUS TIMING CONSIDERATIONS. GIVEN JUST FOUR WEEKS BEFORE THE MINISTERIALS, PERHAPS IT WOULD BE WISE TO INFORM SYG LUNS AND THE ALLIES THAT WE BELIEVE THE NEXT REINFORCED NAC MIGHT BEST BE PLANNED FOR EARLY NEXT YEAR. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THE DEPARTMENT WISHES TO PRESS FOR A REINFORCED MIDDLE EAST DISCUSSION PRIOR TO DECEMBER 6, WE WOULD NEED TO BEGIN PREPARATIONS SOONEST.

5. REQUEST GUIDANCE. STREATOR

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